PATENT 0965-0380P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

YAMAMOTO, Keiichi et al.

Int'l. Appl. No.:

PCT/JP01/06268

Appl. No.:

New

Group:

Filed:

February 21, 2002

Examiner:

For:

TWIN-DRUM CONTINUOUS CASTING

APPARATUS AND METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

February 21, 2002

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 1, insert --This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP01/06268 which has an International filing date of July 19, 2001, which designated the United States of America.--

Docket No. 0965-0380P

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a crossreference to the previously filed International Application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

Verrell C. Birch, #19,382

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

TCB/rem 0965-0380P